

ENERGY TIDBITS – November 2007

Plugging the Leaks: Energy Conservation & Efficiency Conference will be held on November 16 at the Eberhard Center in Grand Rapids. The Michigan Higher Education Partnership for Sustainability, Michigan Dept. of Environmental Quality, and State Energy Office are sponsoring the event to help reduce our energy footprint and build and strengthen networks of collaboration between higher education, state & local government, business, and civil society. Keynote speakers include Dr. Marty Kushler, American Council on Energy Efficient Economy, and Paul Meierdierck, co-chair of the Energy Committee of the New Jersey Higher Education Partnership for Sustainability. <http://www.gvsu.edu/cois/index.cfm?id=42412B5E-0915-9ADC-FE432C3DC0E5BAF>

E85 Infrastructure Conversion Incentives Request for Proposal has been issued by the Energy Office. The Energy Office is seeking proposals from non-profit agencies to administer a statewide project that provides incentives for converting existing fuel delivery systems to E85. The Energy Office plans to award one or two grants totaling \$110,000. Contact Tim Shireman at (517) 241-6281 or e-mail: shiremant@michigan.gov to obtain a copy of the Request for Proposal.

Over 15,000 ENERGY STAR qualified compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFL's) were purchased by mid-Michigan residents within a few days at local Ace Hardware stores as part of the "Change a Light *Change Michigan*" campaign launched on October 1. The promotion was an effort by Urban Options funded by the Energy Office to provide an affordable opportunity for Michigan consumers to purchase ENERGY STAR CFL's for as little as 99 cents with \$2 instant rebates. The 15,000 bulbs purchased will reduce energy use by 4,669,560 kWh's over the life of the bulbs, a savings of more than \$352,552 for Michigan residents. A kick off campaign was hosted on October 1 at Lansing City Hall by Lansing Mayor Virg Bernero, E. Lansing Mayor Samir Singh, MPSC Commissioner Monica Martinez, and Board of Water & Light General Manager J. Peter Lark.

USDA Rural Development has announced that 8 Michigan farmers and rural small businesses have received \$2,361,093 in Renewable Energy & Energy Efficiency Improvement grants or guaranteed loans under the USDA Section 9006 program. Projects include: Wood Stove for Beef Operation, Anaerobic Digesters for 2 Hog Facilities, Grain Dryer Replacement, Greenhouse Energy Curtain, Anaerobic Digester for Dairy Farm, Turkey Litter Gasification to Electricity, Energy Efficient Heating & Cooling, and Greenhouse Energy Efficient Boiler. Since 9006 began, over \$4.2 million has been committed for 29 rural Michigan energy projects. Further information is available at a local USDA Rural Development office or by visiting <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov>.

City of Battle Creek will use a combination of renewable energy technology and infrastructure upgrades to reduce energy costs. A performance contract, which is expected to save the city more than \$190,000 per year, includes the installation of a wood chip-heated boiler that will cover up to 90% of the heating load for City Hall, as well as the police department facilities.

Lawrence Technological University is one of 20 student teams competing in the DOE Solar Decathlon. Their 620 sq. ft. house is designed to be completely energy self-sufficient through various solar technologies, with enough leftover power to charge a plug-in hybrid car. Power for the house is provided by a 7.2 kW Kyocera photovoltaic system on the roof, and hot water from a solar tube system. The house makes use of DC appliances and heating-cooling system because they're more efficient; regular AC power is used only for lighting and outlets. <http://solar.ltu.edu>.

East Michigan Assoc. of Energy Engineers meeting will be held on November 13, 5:30pm at the Taubman Student Center, Lawrence Tech. Keith Willis, Ph.D. will talk about "Risk Assessment Analysis for Conservation Measures in Commercial & Institutional Buildings." www.emaee.org

Ann Arbor will be the first city in the U.S. to convert all of its downtown street lights to LED technology that uses less than half the energy of traditional bulbs and could save the community \$100,000 a year. The 2 year project is being paid for by a \$630,000 grant from the city's Downtown Development Authority. Mayor Hieftje indicated that the city has successfully tested LEDs during a 3 year pilot project of 25 lights on one block.

Bob Burnside's Fireside Homes has built a Platinum LEED Home in Dexter. http://www.hbawc.com/ezefiles/3_Fireside_SC_07.pdf

Michigan Energy Appraisal: Winter 2007/2008 has been released by the MPSC. The appraisal, published since 1978, reviews the projected prices and availability of energy in Michigan over the winter months. The outlook this winter shows that energy supplies in Michigan will be adequate to meet anticipated demand, but at higher prices. Residential natural gas prices are currently 2% higher than last winter. Residential #2 heating oil prices are up sharply. As of October 8, 2007, the average price of residential #2 heating oil is up 20% from last winter's average, and residential propane prices are up by 8%. <http://www.dleg.state.mi.us/mpsc/reports/energy>

Electric Motors - check Sept Energy Observer. www.michigan.gov/energyoffice
"Publications"

Thunder Bay Manufacturing Facility will get a new life as a wind industry supplier. Governor Granholm has announced that Thunder Bay Development LLC is planning to invest \$15 million to purchase and upgrade the former manufacturing

facility in Alpena. Thunder Bay Development LLC would be operated as part of ATI Casting Service which manufactures grey and ductile iron castings for wind energy and other markets. The project is expected to create 368 new jobs, including 150 directly by the company. Assistance from the Michigan Economic Development Corp. helped convince the company to pursue the Michigan facility instead of a site in Indiana.

[Midwest Energy Solutions: Leading the Way](#) is a stimulating 3 day conference dedicated to energy issues in the Midwest. This year's conference will highlight the growing momentum for energy efficiency in the region including sessions on current energy policy initiatives, solutions to marketplace barriers, sector-specific initiatives, and the economy-wide case for energy efficiency. Join the Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance in Chicago January 9th - 11th, 2008 for this exciting event. Download the agenda and register online at www.mwalliance.org/conference.

Energy Efficiency Analyst position is available in the Energy Office. Duties include researching and analyzing energy efficiency opportunities in institutional and other commercial buildings and fleets, preparing and reviewing technical reports, providing technical support to staff with design, development and monitoring of energy efficiency programs.

<http://web1mdcs.state.mi.us/vacancyweb/VacancyInq2.asp?ID=19627>

DTE Energy and Ann Arbor's music venue The Ark have announced a partnership to promote renewable energy in Michigan. November will be Green Energy month at The Ark. During the month, all electricity used at the concert venue will be offset by renewable power provided under DTE Energy's GreenCurrents program. Additionally, anyone who enrolls in GreenCurrents at The Ark in November will receive a free music CD or a ticket to an upcoming Ark performance. www.GreenCurrents.com

Energy Tidbits is free. To subscribe, contact me at sarverj@michigan.gov.